



AAC

Accessibility Advisory Committee

600 Fifth Street NW
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April 2, 2018

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) report for the month of March 2018. The primary issues we reviewed were: 1) the Abilities-Ride Program and 2) the New MetroAccess Vehicle.

Issues of the Month

Abilities-Ride Program

The AAC had the opportunity to speak with Metro staff about the progress of attracting those MetroAccess customers whose current use of MetroAccess is ideally suited for service via the Abilities-Ride program. The AAC also had a detailed discussion about the efforts of the Abilities-Ride service providers to partner with human services agencies (HSA) to provide transportation for their clients. Some members of the AAC were concerned about the safety of the passengers from the HSAs due to the severity of their intellectual disabilities. The AAC will continue to ensure that people with disabilities have safe and reliable transportation options.

New MetroAccess Vehicle

The AAC had an opportunity to speak with Metro staff about the improvement recommendations to the new vehicles and the retrofitting schedule. The AAC recommends that Metro first retrofit the 207 vehicles that are currently in use, and then retrofit the vehicles that were in production prior to the AAC recommended changes being officially accepted by Metro.

The AAC is also concerned about the seatbelt straps on the vehicles, and how they could pose a danger to customers who use wheelchairs due to the positioning of the seatbelt. The AAC would like Metro to study and make improvements to the seatbelts. Metro staff stated they will work with the manufacturer to address any identified seatbelt issues.

Sincerely,

Philip Posner
Chair